

Berlin W.  
Friedrichstrasse 58.  
August 18, 1873.

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Dear Professor Gray,

I duly received the tinbox containing  
very fine specimens of the following  
three marine phanerogams viz.

*Thalassia testudinum* König (2 flowering spec)  
*Cymodocea manatum* A. Nels (2 flowering spec)  
*Halodule Wrightii* A. Nels. (various)

gathered by Count Pointalis near  
Key West, Florida

I do not think that these 3 species  
the same, which Mr. Wright has  
brought in so excellent specimens from  
Cuba, are recorded hitherto from  
the U. S.

It would be highly desirable to ascer-  
tain whether the "Zosteria marina"  
of Prof Chapman from West-Florida  
is the true plant; or, which is not unra-  
table, that *Thalassia*, which is called  
in the country "eelgrass", as Count  
Pointalis writes, was taken for it.

and the description of the latter was copied from any botanical text-book, yours probably.

At all event, it would be highly recommendable to the coast-survey officers to gather specimens of these plants from all interesting points of your shores, especially off from those of the Pacific.

The name "Turtle grass" from which that of Thalassia testudinum <sup>tooth</sup> has its origin, is given on Key West, Little Bountales, to Gymnophora manatarum. He observes also that it is the favorite food of Chelonia mydas. In Catesby's "Historia nat. Carol." this tortoise is figured with the well-marked Thalassia testudinum (from the Bahama's); I have seen a specimen gathered by Catesby now existing in the British Museum.

My warmest thanks to you and Count Bonstalu for these very important ma-

terials.

I am, most respectfully,

Yours,

P. A. Kessner.